

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
Ohio Mining Journal

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School of Mines at the O. S. U.

BY CAPT. J. L. MORRIS.

Now is the time to enter the School of Mines at the Ohio State University. The inducements held forth by the management are such as to tempt every young miner in Ohio. Once started, ambition spurs him on and in a few years what might have been a rough, worthless man is turned forth from the doors of the educational workshop a bright and sparkling mining engineer. The short course in the mining department has proven a success and next year we hope to see the attendance greatly increased. The educational advantages of Ohio, as regards the public schools, stand very high, but the average young miner is compelled to leave school at a very tender age, say 15, and unless he is a remarkably bright boy reaps no benefit from the course of study in the High Schools, but should he be ambitious he studies at night or snatches a few minutes at the noon-day hour to brighten his intellect by solving problems which before had resisted his efforts; year by year this goes on and the boy becomes a man. Often his industry is rewarded, but how many are left to plod along in the water and dirt, no farther advanced than the day he first took up the pick. His money is squandered in the dens of vice which are so abundant in the mining districts. His family suffers for the necessities of life and squalor and abject poverty marks his habitation. This can all be changed. The young man saves his money and in a few years has spent some time at the University then what a transformation. The rough, uncouth boy, becomes a polished gentleman, the common miner a good engineer, his family dote on him and he is happy. General Garfield said once "No man is too great for his calling." In order that he may be able to fill any position in life the young man must be educated. A general knowledge of the affairs of the world and a thorough knowledge of his chosen avocation are two requisites. Each man should have thorough ideas in regard to his calling so that he may be able to pursue it successfully. You cannot take an intricate piece of mechanism such as a watch, to a blacksmith for repair. He would laugh at you and if you persisted would think you insane, yet this man can form as good a horse-shoe or make as lasting a weld as any in the country. In mining engineering the critical man will invariably meet with difficulties

of which no mention has been made in his text books and to overcome these may cause him great worry and bother. The engineer who has served his time in the mines before entering college may have encountered just such difficulties and thus early surmounted them. These are the men we want for the mines of Ohio. With such active young brains the duties of the State officers will be lessened, the miner raised in the social scale and the mines raised to such a standard that the eyes of the nation will be jealously turned toward them.

The mining engineer has played an important part in the history of America. When Columbus came, the hills and mountains were filled with untold wealth, awaiting the coming of civilized man. Accidentally coal was discovered in Pennsylvania but could not be mined in paying quantities because of the difficulties surrounding it. An engineer solved the problem and now coal is one of the chief sources of wealth in that great State. Thus it can be said of all minerals, nor has the end yet come, but rather we are at the beginning. To continue this development we must have active energetic young blood, who, like their fore-fathers are willing to suffer privation and hardships in order that posterity may in some way be benefitted. Give to Prof. Lord and his able assistant, Prof. Sperr, the requisite timber and we will warrant the man which they turn out a good progressive engineer, capable to perform all the aforesaid duties.